

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New): A method for improving the metal effects and further processing criteria as well as the flexibility of resin coated decorative papers, wherein a solution of one or more alkaline metal salts delaying hardening is applied, during printing with metal effect inks by gravure printing.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture is applied in a gravure printing method by a fond cylinder or another adequate method onto printed or non-printed standard base paper.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 17, wherein sodium aluminate is dissolved in  $> 60^{\circ}\text{C}$  hot water, in order to produce a mixture in the desired concentration.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 18, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 20 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and has a proportion of 0.5 up to maximum 5 weight-% related to the complete ready-for-print preparation.

Claim 21 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and 14 is used.

Claim 22 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and is applied in the ready solution onto the paper by means of a fond cylinder and gravure printing depending on the fond volume and the machine speed.

Claim 23 (New): The method according to claim 22, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> up to maximum 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> wet is observed.

Claim 24 (New): The method according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline metal salt is sodium aluminate and wherein for effect inks (pearl, silver, and irisation inks) in higher concentrations on the respective printed decorative papers, a sodium aluminate solution in water or in a water/extender mixture is applied onto the surface of the metallic prints by means of gravure printing with a fond cylinder.

Claim 25 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate is dissolved in > 60 °C hot water, in order to produce a mixture in the desired concentration.

Claim 26 (New): The mixture according to claim 25, wherein the water is demineralized water.

Claim 27 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate has a solid contents of 0.5 up to maximum 5 % related to the complete ready-for-print preparation.

Claim 28 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein a sodium aluminate solution having a pH-value between pH 9 and pH 14 is used.


Claim 29 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein the sodium aluminate in the ready solution is applied onto the paper by means of a fond cylinder and gravure printing depending on the fond volume and the machine speed.

Claim 30 (New): The method according to claim 29, wherein an orientation value or a target value of minimum 3 g/m<sup>2</sup> up to maximum 25 g/m<sup>2</sup> wet is observed.

Claim 31 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein amino plastic resins are used for impregnating and pearl pigments in the form of compounds of feldspar or silicic acid (silicon dioxide) are used, being coated with titanium dioxide.

Claim 32 (New): The method according to claim 31, wherein melamine formaldehyde resins or urea-formaldehyde resins are used as the amino plastic resins.

Respectfully submitted,

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